

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204537
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
S/S O:TMARTIN

-----066634 120310Z /62

P 120119Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204537

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3, 4

TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: LUERS TALK WITH SPASOWSKI: VISA DENIALS

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR AUGUST 10 MEETING WITH POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI DAS LUERS AND EE DIRECTOR SCHMIDT RAISED THE ISSUE OF POLISH DENIALS OF VISITORS VISAS TO AMERICANS. SPASOWSKI INDICATED THIS IS A DIFFICULT QUESTION BUT PROMISED TO RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF CASES WHEN POSSIBLE. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEETING ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHMIDT, SPEAKING FOR LUERS WHO HAD BEEN CALLED AWAY BUT LATER REJOINED THE DISCUSSION, RECALLED THE NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS HE AND OTHERS HAVE HAD HERE AND IN WARSAW ABOUT THE QUESTION OF AMERICANS WHO ARE DENIED VISITORS VISAS. HE OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE GROWING RAPIDLY AND WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN IT BOTH TO THE
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INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND TO OUTSELVES. ALTHOUGH ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE SOMETIMES INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS AND ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD POLAND. THEY WANT TO VISIT TO ATTEND CONFERENCES OR TO SEE RELATIVES, OFTEN ONES WHO ARE SICK OR DYING. IN ONE CASE, A COUPLE WANTED TO ADOPT A CHILD AND HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE POLISH ADOPTION AGENCY TO VISIT

FOR THIS BUT WAS THEN DENIED A VISA BY THE CONSULATE. THERE IS ALSO A PROFESSOR WHO WANTS TO DELIVER A PAPER AT A CONFERENCE AND ANOTHER APPLICANT, A MEMBER OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, WHO HAS SERVED AS A GUIDE TO TOUR GROUPS VISITING POLAND AND HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ABOUT THE JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND. SCHMIDT EXPRESSED WONDERMENT THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE DEDYING VISAS LIKE THIS WHEN IT CREATES SUCH ILL WILL AND WHEN THEY COULD BE PRODUCING THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. HE THEN ASKED SPASOWSKI WHAT COULD BE DONE.

3. SPASOWSKI REPLIED THAT THERE ARE REALLY NOT MANY OF THESE CASES AND STRESSED POLAND'S GENERALLY LIBERAL VISA POLICY. HE SAID THE DENIALS INVOLVE MAINLY PEOPLE WHO REJECTED POLISH CITIZENSHIP TOWARD THE END OF THE LAST DECADE. IN MANY CASES, THEY HAVE DONE SOMETHING CONTRARY TO POLISH INTERESTS. ACKNOWLEDGING SCHMIDT'S POINT ABOUT ILL WILL, SPASOWSKI CLAIMED THAT THE POLISH EMBASSY AND THE MFA GIVE FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATIONS (PRESUMABLY TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY) WHENEVER POSSIBLE. SPASOWSKI EXPRESSED A HOPE THE PROBLEM WILL DIMINISH.

4. ASKED WHAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED COULD DO, SPASOWSKI REPLIED THAT THIS DEPENDS ON THE PARTICULAR CASE. HE NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN IN A RESPONSIBLE
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POSITION IN POLAND AND THEN, EITHER IN POLAND OR ABROAD, THEY ACTED IN AN "IMPROPER WAY" WHICH LED TO "RESERVATIONS" ABOUT THEM. SPASOWSKI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THESE "RESERVATIONS" CAN BE OVERCOME.

5. EE DESK OFFICER SEYMOUR OBSERVED THAT IN SOME CASES INVOLVING RENUNCIATION OF POLISH CITIZENSHIP THE PERSONS CONCERNED SAY THEY WERE MADE TO FEEL COMPELLED TO RENOUNCE THEIR CITIZENSHIP IN ORDER TO GET PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. THEY WANTED TO LEAVE BECAUSE THEY FELT CONDITIONS WERE DIFFICULT FOR THEM. SPASOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED CONDITIONS MAY HAVE BEEN BAD BUT INSISTED TRUE POLISH "PATRIOTS" BELONG ON THE WISLA. SEYMOUR NOTED THAT THESE PEOPLE SEEK ONLY TO VISIT POLAND NOT TO OBTAIN REINSTATEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP.

6. SCHMIDT THEN ASKED IF UE COULD ALSO RAISE THESE VISA CASES WITH SPASOWSKI IN THE SAME MANNER AS WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES (SEPARATE TELEGRAM). SPASOWSKI AGREED AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO RECOMMEND A FAVORABLE RESPONSE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

7. AT THIS POINT LUERS RETURNED AND WAS BRIEFED BY

SCHMIDT ON THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION. LUERS GAVE

SPASOWSKI A LIST OF THREE CASES (HE WILL POUCH TO EMBASSY)
AND ASKED IF THE AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE HIS PEOPLE LOOK
INTO THEM. LUERS NOTED THAT PROFESSOR EHRENKREUTZ AND
OTHER POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS OFFICIALS HAD SPECIFICALLY
ASKED HIM TO RAISE ONE OF THOSE ON THE LIST. SPASOWSKI
AGREED TO COMPLY WITH LUERS REQUEST. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE204537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
Enclosure: DC IS ALSO X4
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-1100
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780870/aaaacgcl.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34c08264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1758032
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUERS TALK WITH SPASOWSKI: VISA DENIALS
TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, SHUM, PFOR, PL, US, CSCE
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34c08264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014